

11 August 1992

Congressman Tom Lantos
House of Representatives
Capitol Hill
Washington DC

Dear Congressman Lantos,

I watched your appearance on BBC 2's Newsnight programme last night and should like you to know how much I appreciated your comments on the horrifying situation in Bosnia.

The news of the atrocities - who ever thought that concentration camps would surface again in Europe ? - grows worse daily and many people of all faiths and persuasions are finding the attitudes of the Western governments, particularly that of the Bush Administration, very difficult to understand, especially the difference in their response to the crisis which resulted in the Gulf war and their total reluctance now to act when genocide is being committed on everyone's television screens and reported in the world's press. There can be no saying that we did not know .

It might be cynical to say that there is no oil in Bosnia but many people see this as the differing factor in Bush's response to the two crises and are agonised at the West's indifference to the suffering of innocent people. The recent draft UN resolution permitting the use of force to guarantee the supplies of humanitarian aid is completely inadequate if the people to be supplied are already dead.

Your frank comments will give many people food for thought and I urge you to continue your efforts to mobilise public opinion and that of your colleagues in a strenuous attempt to stem this slaughter.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General